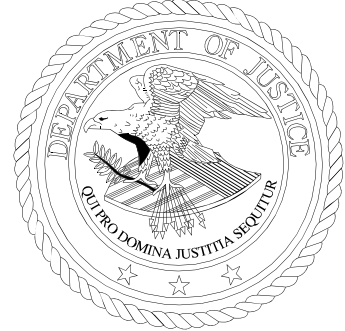


NEWS

United States Department of Justice
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Christopher J. Christie, U.S. Attorney



More Information? Contact the Assistant U.S. Attorney or other contact listed below to see if more information is available.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Aug. 15, 2007

Swedesboro Man Sentenced to 24 Months In Prison for Defrauding Bank of \$550,000

(More)

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CAMDEN – A Swedesboro man was sentenced to 24 months in federal prison today on wire fraud and money laundering charges for his scheme to use the identity of another individual to defraud Commerce Bank of more than \$550,000, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

U.S. District Judge Robert B. Kugler also ordered Leon Land, 39, a.k.a. “Leon Foreman,” to pay \$79,395 in restitution (the amount of loss still outstanding) and to serve three years of supervised release upon the completion of his prison sentence.

On Aug. 25, 2006, Land was escorted back to the United States from the Dominican Republic by Special Agents with the FBI to face charges arising out of his fraudulent scheme. On Jan. 5, 2007, Land pleaded guilty before Judge Kugler to a two-count Information, which charged one count each of wire fraud and money laundering. At the time, Judge Kugler continued the defendant’s detention pending sentencing.

At his plea hearing, Land admitted that he applied for and obtained four loans from Commerce Bank using the Social Security number of another individual and by making other false statements on the loan applications. Land funneled the proceeds of the four loans into a checking account that he had established using the same false identifying information, he admitted. Land then depleted that account and caused the four loans to go into default, he admitted. Shortly after that account was depleted, Land left the United States and traveled to the Dominican Republic.

In determining the actual sentence, Judge Kugler consulted the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, a defendant’s criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system and thus defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all the time imposed by the court.

Christie credited Special Agents of the IRS Criminal Investigation Division, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge William Offord, in Newark, and Special Agents of the FBI’s Cherry Hill Resident Agency, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge J.P. Weis, in Philadelphia, for investigation of the case.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Allen Harberg.

-end-

Defense Counsel: Jeffrey Zucker, Esq. Camden